

CLAIMS

1. Use of an apoptosis inducing agent in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory disorders.
2. Use of an apoptosis inducing agent in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of immune diseases.
3. Use of an apoptosis inducing agent in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.
4. Use of a gene delivery vehicle comprising a gene capable of expressing an apoptosis inducing agent in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory disorders.
5. Use of a gene delivery vehicle comprising a gene capable of expressing an apoptosis inducing agent in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of immune diseases.
6. Use of a gene delivery vehicle comprising a gene capable of expressing apoptosis inducing agent in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.
7. Use according to anyone of claims 4-6, wherein said gene delivery vehicle further comprises a suicide gene.
8. Use according to claim 7, wherein said suicide gene is inducible.
9. Use according to anyone of claims 4-8, wherein said gene delivery vehicle has a tropism for hematopoietic cells.
10. Use according to claim 4-8, wherein said gene delivery vehicle has a tropism for fibroblast-like synoviocytes.
11. Use according to anyone of claims 4-10, wherein said gene delivery vehicle has been provided with a targeting means, especially a targetting means for fibroblast-like synoviocytes.

13. Use according to anyone of the foregoing claims,
5 wherein the apoptosis inducing agent comprises apoptin or
a functional fragment, derivative or equivalent thereof.

15. A method for determining the presence of cells likely to result in an (auto)immune disease, comprising providing suspect cells with apoptin-like activity and subjecting said cells to stress, such as heat shock, osmotic shock, UV or chemical stress and determining apoptosis.

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